

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 064366  
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064366

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US, AO, RH, CG

SUBJECT: GARBA'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE

1. ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADORS SANU AND MUSA, COUNSELOR  
OBE, AND BRONSON DEDE, GARBA MET WITH SECRETARY FOR AN  
HOUR MARCH 21. SECRETARY ACCOMPANIED BY ZBIGNIEW BRZE-  
ZINSKI OF NSC AND BY AMBASSADORS SCHAUFEELE AND EASUM.  
CONVERSATION CENTERED ON ANGOLA/ZAIRE PROBLEM AND ON  
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ZIMBABWE.

2. GARBA SAID NIGERIA HAD BEEN ASKED BY MOBUTU TO USE ITS  
GOOD OFFICES WITH NETO TO OBTAIN WITHDRAWAL OF EX-KATANGAN  
MERCENARY UNITS NOW ATTACKING SHABA FROM ACROSS THE  
ANGOLAN BORDER. NIGERIA SENT AN EMISSARY (YUSUFU) TO  
LUANDA WHO NOW REPORTS THAT NETO "FORESEES NO SERIOUS

DIFFICULTY, IN ACCEPTING SUCH AN INITIATIVE BY NIGERIA. NETO PROMISED TO GIVE NIGERIA A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE BY THIS COMING WEEKEND. MEANWHILE NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO WANTED GARBA TO TALK WITH SECRETARY VANCE TO SEE WHAT THE US AND NIGERIA COULD DO JOINTLY TO LOCALIZE THE PROBLEM AND AVOID EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION OVER THE ISSUE. NIGERIA WANTED THE KATANGANS TO WITHDRAW FROM ZAIRE. SO DID NYERERE. ABOVE ALL THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT "HOT PURSUIT" INTO ANGOLA BY ZAIROIS FORCES WOULD

ANGER "THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" AND THE SOVIETS AND/OR CUBANS WOULD THEN ESCALATE THE RESPONSE. ALREADY NETO WAS CLAIMING THREE ANGOLAN VILLAGES HAD BEEN BOMBARDED BY ZAIROIS FORCES.

3. SECRETARY VANCE EXPLAINED THE LIMITED NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY AID THE US HAD FURNISHED MOBUTU, SAYING WE SHARED NIGERIA'S CONCERNS THAT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE BE PRESERVED. VANCE SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH DOBRYNIN ABOUT THE MATTER AND WOULD RAISE IT AGAIN IN MOSCOW. GARBA SAID HE WOULD BE TALKING WITH THE SOVIET PERMREP TO THE UN IN NEW YORK MARCH 22. STRESSING US INTEREST IN A SOLUTION WITHIN AN AFRICAN FRAMEWORK, VANCE ASSURED GARBA OF US SUPPORT FOR A NIGERIAN INITIATIVE TO MEDIATE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO GARBA'S PLEA THAT THE US NOW UNDERTAKE TO NORMALIZE ITS POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA, VANCE SAID HE HAD TOLD CONGRESS WE WERE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS  
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WITH ANGOLA WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS BUT THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO NOW IN THE FACE OF CURRENT ANGOLAN/ZAIRE DIFFICULTIES. IN ADDITION, WE'VE HAD NO RESPONSE TO THE CONCRETE PROPOSALS WE HAD SUBMITTED TO THE ANGOLANS. GARBA SAID HE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO TELL NETO THE US WAS STILL PREPARED TO DISCUSS NORMALIZATION. VANCE SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON WHETHER NIGERIA, AS PART OF ITS INTERMEDIATION WITH NETO ON THE ZAIRE PROBLEM, COULD INFORM NETO THAT THE US WAS PREPARED TO START DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF A RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA TALKS ON ZIMBABWE, GARBA URGED THAT THE US TAKE THE LEAD AWAY FROM BRITAIN; "THE BRITISH DON'T COUNT ANYMORE." GARBA SAID OBASANJO HAD BEEN INTERESTED BY THE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS DISCUSSED IN THEIR MEETING IN FEBRUARY IN LAGOS WITH ANDY YOUNG. VANCE SAID HE WISHED TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF DAVID OWEN'S MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA NEXT MONTH. IF THAT

FAILED, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE UP A NEW APPROACH.

6. LATER MARCH 21 VANLE AUTHORIZED SCHAUFLE TO INFORM GARBA THAT US WOULD BE PREPARED TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ANGOLANS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS PROVIDED PROGRESS IS MADE WITH RESPECT TO THE CURRENT PROBLEM REGARDING ZAIRE.

7. FOREGOING IS FOR INFORMATION OF ADDRESSEES ONLY. SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS WILL GOVERN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTSON ABOVE.

VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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